THE STORY OF A GREAT CAPTAIN.

GREAT CAPTAINS. Alexander. By Theodore Ayrault Dodge. With charts, maps, plans and illsutrations, 8vo, pp. xxv-692. Houghton Millin & Co.

largely than Alexander. No man has been more admiration of the ordinary soldier. He was their written about. The extant lives of the great captain | hero and their idol, and not only because he could are almost beyond computation. The estimates of and did do everything, but because he was genhis military career, of his statemanship, of his per- erous, profuse even, when his coffers were full, sonal character, are as opposite as the poles and as | and because he was never beaten. His striking various as prejudice and enthusiasm can render personal beauty, his martial eloquence, the conthem. Yet Colonel Dodge has made it clear in stant sight of his gallantry and "elan" in battle, this well-written book that there was room for the boldness of his plans and the headlong dash at least one more study of the great Macedonian of his execution, must have developed an attachand that new light could be thrown upon his ment and devotion to him among his men even achievements by examining them from a military | deeper and stronger than that of the Old Guard point of view, and by comparing and comrasting toward the "Little Corporal." them with more modern and familiar campaigns, | fertility in resource must have increased this feelbattles, sieges and marches. Several chapters of ling, moreover. The presence of difficulties litthe present work are devoted to a sketch of the erally stimulated him, nor is there a single reart of war as it existed prior to the time of Philip | corded instance of his surrender to the most forof Macedon; the general conclusion to be drawn | midable of them. The siege of Tyre was one from the facts presented being that up to that notable illustration of this. Another was the period there really was no art of war. Battles Battle of Hydaspes, when the elephants of Porus there were in plenty, but strategy was unknown. | threatened to paralyze the Macedonian cavalry-The opponents approached one another in parallel his favorite arm. His treatment of the high rock critics disputing as to whether it is prose or lines; a series of single combats between cham- fortresses of India is still another case in point. pions then took pince, after which, or sometimes during which, the opposing lines closed, and pro- a stronghold he was able to give them wings. ceeded to settle the dispute very much after the Neither mountain-passes, nor deep ravines.nor pathprimitive fashion of an Irish "faction-fight" of less snow-fields, nor burning, waterless deserts, the old time. There were many peculiarities could block his path to his object. He was the about the ancient belligerent conditions, and one | most terrible lighter the world has ever seen, beof these is frequently adverted to by Colonel cause literally nothing was permitted to stop him. Dedge-the fact that no returns were ever made of the losses of a thoroughly beaten army. The explanation of this is that as a general thing the defeated army was annihilated literally as a coherent body of disciplined troops, and sometimes almost literally as an aggregate of sentient beings. For, when the day was clearly seen to be lost, the beaten army went to pieces. Panic of the most paralyzing kind seized all the survivors, and such as could not save themselves by rapid flight were slaughtered where they stood. The notions of the ancients concerning human life were simple. It had very little value for them. conquered the known world for him, continued to be sacrificed very freely, and as to the "barbarians," as all outsiders were conveniently denominated, they were not more regarded than so

Philip of Macedon was the first to organize the art of war, and he laid the foundation of Alexander's fortunes in leaving to the latter a discisely that of Frederick the Great and his father. and execution of ambitious and far-reaching schemes. In nothing has Colonel Dodge done such good service as in dissipating the false views disseminated by modern critics as to the relative magnitude and difficulty of Alexander's conquests. full weight of expert testimony to his conclusions, while his analyses are so full and clear that his throughout, and to appreciate the corency of it. The idea that the deeds of Alexander sink into comparative insignificance when compared with surrendered, in fact, for Colonel Dodge has demonstrated that the greatest of military captains the world has ever known overcame dishoulties quently interior antagonists is another fallacy exploded by this study, for Colonel Dodge shows they were before. careful comparison that Alexander's losses in

able weapons, and the troops carrying the ordinary to check and restrain international aggression querors there were before and after him, who several occasions he perpetrated. who depended mainly or wholly upon the weight | for example, surposses in horror the shaulter of their armies, and simply swept away their at the sack of Magdeborg, where thirty thou ment conquered the whole known world, ever- short, it is not so easy as might be the ment when Alexander was present was lost. flery energy and unresisting action, but compared posite illustrations might be given. to Alexander, the great Corsican was but a trifler. For the Macedonian was so constituted that he that the personal defects of Alexander, even must not only exercise intellectual but physical taking fully into account his most violent and indefensible acts, such as the murder of Clitas, campaigns and sieges-he must set a personal ex- the execution of Parmenio and Philatas, and the ample to his men at every critical juncture, he cruel treatment of Batis, do not together constimust lead the stormers, fight always in the front | tute a domaing record, when contrasted as they rank, excel in all military exercises, outdo the should be with the conditions and which he lived hardiest of his troops in endurance, outmarch the and the magnitude of the temptations to abuse stoutest, outride his best cavalry, in short, exhibit of power to which he was exposed. It is said, at once more brain and more muscle than any man

The testimony of his contemporaries, both friends and enemies, to this unparalleled mental and physical activity and superiority is too cumulative to be doubted, and the detailed proofs are overwhelming. Alexander never commanded his soldiers to do anything which he could not and would not do, and do better, himself. His personal strength was phenomenal. He had a frame of iron and a constitution capable of standing anything, together with a mind equally active, lucid and fecund in suggestions. Perhaps one of the clearest indications of his genius consists in the fact that battle sherpened his perceptions. He thought more freely in the turmoil of combat, and this even while personally engaged in fighting. Many of his great victories were due to inspirations of the moment, and there never was a commander so prompt to act upon these flashes of insight and so cool to face the most tremendous risks. It has been said that Fortune loves a bold gamester, and certainly the career of Alexander would seem to justify the saw. Colonel Dodge, in his endeavor to hold the scales even, expresses the opinion that the element of luck did enter largely into Alexander's successes. It must, indeed, be admitted that his opponents committed often the most fortunate blunders for him; that his rashest ventures frequently proved successful chiefly because those who ought to have taken advantage of his recklessness failed to do so; that his antagonists did the things he would have had them do again and again. But after all, these cases were mostly tests of his genius, for it is the superior captain who takes swift advantage of the enemy's error, who acts upon knowledge of the enemy's inefficiency, who, calculating all factors. does not omit that of intellectual and professional inferiority. The successes of Frederick and Napoleon may be subjected to this same test, and the result will be precisely that issuing in Alexander's case.

Macedonian leader it seems impossible to avoid the conclusion that his splendid and uniform successes were attributable in the main to the fact that he really was head and shoulders above his age, and perhaps above any succeeding age, as regards military genius. That he should have made of his Macedonians a force capable of going anywhere and doing anything is not wonderful in view of his predominance in all that takes the admiration of the ordinary soldier. He was their hero and their idol, and not only because he could and did do everything, but because he was generous, profuse even, when his coffers were full, and because he was never beaten. His striking personal beauty, his martial cloquence, the constant sight of his gallantry and "elan" in battle, the boldness of his plans and the headlong dash of his generating post hard a gallantry and "elan" in battle, the boldness of his plans and the headlong dash of his generating post head of the conclusion of a most interesting, learned and in every way valuable and therough book. No man has occupied the world's eye more view of his predominance in all that takes the When "winged soldiers" were needed to reduce His men were invincible because he always

led the way for them; so that when the mutiny occurred at Opis he was able to challenge the bravest champion among them to come forward and compare sears with him-"and I," said Alexander, "will show him more than his." It was true, for he had, as he also said, been wounded with every variety of weapon then in use, cut and stabbed with swords, pierced by arrows and spears, bruised by clubs and stones-there was no kind of wound from which he had not suffered. Once he was shot through the lung, and a weaker man would no doubt have died of the Even Alexander's Macedonians, after they had injury. Not so Alexander, who in a few weeks was able to leave his bed and resume his command. His death, when it occurred, was caused by a reglected malarial fever, engendered by the breaking up of large areas of soil at Babylon, for purposes of fortification. Even then probably the neglect alone determined the character of the issue, for such a constitution at thirtytwo should have retained vitality enough to throw off the typhoid influences if given anyciplined and instructed army. The case was pregle. Such a mind in such a body was in truth and in both instances the possession of a power-ful army by a young man led to the projection the brain of a Napoleon. For Alexander was much more than a great captain; he was a great statesman also. One impracticable fancy possessed him, that of freeing all the races of his heterogeneous Empire, by mingling them well together. This was a dream, and never could Here his military training and judgment lend the have come to anything. He Hellenized Asia to a very slight extent, and Asia Orientalized him and his Macedonians far more deeply. After readers are enabled to follow his reasoning his death, in fact, the Asiatic habits impressed upon his army speedily led to its demoralization, and most of his lieutenants fell under the same corrupting agencies. But he held large views modern military achievements must henceforth be not only of conquest, but of administration. His treatment of conquered peoples and subjugated princes was that of a wise politician, and as different as possible from that of the earlier and and obstacles such as none of his successors have later Asiatic conquerors. He meant to keep the had to cope with. The notion that his successes | countries he had won by the sword, and to were gained chiefly over barbarous and conse- solidify and establish his conquests he sought to make the subject races happier and safer than as pare hierature, it would be hard to find many

It could not be expected that in a military pear average, sometimes came near the absolutes of our Civil War-awar in itself far more destructive than, say, the France-defrance offerman one-and in nearly every instance were such as to indicate hard fighting and gallant foes, beaten after prolonged conflict by superior strategy and superior tacties and discipline.

No doubt the adoption in the Macedonian pulsable with the case playing along the firm of the Sarissa, the twenty-two-foot spear, contact of the most primitive rights permantially alone are seen, and a war-ton of the Sarissa, the twenty-two-foot spear, contact of the same discipline.

No doubt the adoption in the Macedonian pulsable with the same discipline.

No doubt the adoption in the Macedonian pulsable with the same discipline of the Sarissa, the twenty-two-foot spear, contact of the same magin, the same drawsy charm which pass for the Saries and in the same discipline of the Saries and the same discipline of the Saries and the same discipline of the same magin, the same drawsy charm which pass for the Macedonian pulsable, arms of the Saries and the same discipline of the same magin, the same drawsy charm which pass for the Macedonian pulsable, arms of the Saries and mean that its rapidly becoming impossible for always, afternoon. In its subsequent victories, for neither Greeks nor barbarians could stand the inpact of the same discipline of the same magin, the same drawsy charm which pass for the Macedonian pulsable, arms of the Saries and mean that it is rapidly becoming impossible for always, afternoon. In its subsequent victories, for neither Greeks nor barbarians could stand the inpact of the same magin, the same distinct of the same distinct on the woods and their that the compaction of ables of them that is another. He makes fred mentions in a mystic hole of the sum that is a color and atmosphered to the sum the books: In the foreited wards of the same make the sum that is a c the greater number of his battles fully equalled study the ethical aspects of Alexander's career the Macedonian phalanx armed with these formid-but recently, and even then but partially, seemed we live, and carries as back to the time of the backst short spears were at a fatal disadvantage when It may be said that Napoleon was not less obso opposed. But the Sariesa alone would not have accomplished much without the military genius and if we go back a little further, to the time and the marvellous energy of Alexander. It is of Louis the Fourteenth, we shall find parallels when his personality is studied that his incomnot only to Alexander's high-handed invasions. Iroqueis of old: when the war-signal carried in testable supremacy is most clearly perceived. Con- but even to the ruthless butcheries which on devastated and slaughtered on a great scale, but the military crimes of the Alexandrian epoch. enemies as by the force of gravitation. But Alex- sand out of thirty-six thousand men, women and ander was not one of these. The army he led | children were massacred, under the authority of out of Macedon numbered no more than 35,000 a "most Christian" king. When questions of men, and in four years he had with this instra- humanity and morals come to be considered, in thrown the great Persian Empire, and in this distinguish between ancient and modern prac-swift and triumphant progress had won every tices. War, from its nature, is inevitably cruel battle in which he engaged and taken every and inhumane, and the very qualities which go stronghold before which he sat down. Semetimes to constitute the most successful soldiers are his lieutenants sustained deteats, but no engage- precisely those which, under given conditions. The conduce to the production of the most pitiles ment when Alexander was present was lost. The conduct to the production of the most pittless expenditure of vital energy maintained by him deels. The conduct of Wellington's troops in surpasses any record of the kind. Napoleon at the sack of Spanish cities during the Peninsular thought to be the incarnation of War is directly in point, and many equally ap-

We are disposed to agree with Colonel Dodge -perhaps it is insisted upon too stronglythat he was vain. But where has there ever been a man who had anything approaching his excuses for vanity? The conqueror of the known world, the invincible captain, the subduer of all obstacles; the handsomest strongest, stronges minded, most unitersally accomplished sovercist of his age; the man who had never known dofeet; the man to whom all looked up, whom all finitered and deferred to; whose position was that of a demigod-how should such a one escapthe weakness of vanity? As to the common report of his intemperate habits, it inevitably recalls the story about Grant's whiskey; assuredly, judging from results, it would have been good for his enemies to obtain some of Alexander's faverite vintage. Judged by the standards of his own age, therefore, it is not possible to hold him accomatable for the ethical wrongs involved in his carer, and judged by any standards his virtage and excellences far outweign his detects and vices. Considering too, the floreness of the light that beets upon such a throne as that of Alexander, it must be admitted that the catalogue of crimes aleged against him is surprisingly short. That he was a very great captain, and one of the greatest of nach, appears to be the necessary conclusion, and also that he does not deserve to be consi ered a wicked great man. His prodigious achievements had no doubt to some extent demoralized him, and had he lived some years longer he might have carned Napoleon's harsh vergict. But his death cut short his de line, and so fixed his record.

Colorel Dedge has done much toward rehabilitating the memory of this great soldier and ruler, favorite vintage. Judged by the standards of

### WILLIAM MORRIS'S NEW BOOK.

A MAGNIFICENT PROSE-FOEM.

The "House of the Wolfings" belongs in its form to a species of composition so archaic as

from senerous prese to the cadenced, quicker pace of flowing verse seem only the accentuation of the more exciting and significant episodes. Viewell works more perfect in conception and execution Mark, when the Houses of the Wolf and the Bear | The good news comes that Mr. Rudyard Kipling. and the Hart and the Elk and many more tolerns were planted in continus proximity, deep in the Linglish wild wood, when each family and tribe volume novel. not haste from House to House upon the scenes of invasion was:

its each end dipped in the blood stream, both the

In this dim old time of rune-enscribed weapons and secred standards and general belief in the prophetic gift and reliance upon omens and signs and tokens, nothing can be more natural than the introduction of daughters of the gods like the Wood-Sun," and charmed suits of armor like the fatal hanberk wrought by the dwarfs in their caverns under the mountains, and loaded with the curse of their king. The figure of Thiodolf, too, stands out in heroic proportions. Chief by nature and powers, though alien to the House of Wolfing, whose acknowledged head he has come to be; war-duke of the Folk in their time of need, mighty man of his hands, keen and vise counselior and leader, his whole character ad action harmonizes with time and place de-Mr. Morris has moreover caught ghtfully. Mr. Morris has moreover caught and note of sadness, that note of belief in an con Destiny which led men through all manner of troubles and trials to victory or defeat, and which can by no eraft or skill or prayer or device be moved or deflected from its goal-the note which strikes a modern so forcibly in the Nibelungenlied, for example, and in the Sagas of Scandinavia. The doom of Thiodolf begins to enter as a motive into the action very early. With his first meeting of the "Wood-Sun" in the forest it is made evident that her love for the chief of the Wollin's is drawing her to attempt what she well knows to be a voin reistance to the decree of Fate. She would save him even at the sacrifice of his honor, for a time, so does love blind even a daughter of the rods. But the "Hall-Sun"-the tribal priestess, kind of vestal virgin, and daughter of Thiodolf and the "Weod-Sun," a seer as well as a priestess and guardian of the sacred lump of the House-interferes presently for the maintenance of the War-Duke's fame, and convincs the reluctant "Wood-Sun" that the doom must be fulfilled.

There is, indeed, no part of this prose-poem which does not abound with beauties. The picture of the Mid-Mark clearing, where the House of the Wolfing ions been raised, before the alarm of the Roman invasion has dissipated its peaceful charms.

is most picturesque and attractive : "Tells the tale that it was an evening of som mer, when the wheat was in the ear, but yet green, and the neatherds were done driving the nileh-kine to the byre, and the horseherds and the shepherds and made the night-shift, and the outgoers were riding two by two, and one by one, through the lanes between the wheat and the rve through the lanes between the wheat and the rve toward the measow. Round the cots of the thralls were gathered knots of men and women, both thralls and freemen, some talking together, some hearkening a song of a tale, some singing, and some dancing together, and the children gambol-Colored Dedge has done much toward rehabilitating the memory of this great soldier and ruler, and his appreciations of the military events of Alexander's campaigns are so clear and masserity that the positions of the opposed forces, their manoceures, and the reasons of every movement and issue, are made pain to the dullest appreciation. The work is also a study of the progress of war, and each step in advance, each improvement in weapons, drill and tractics, is carefully set forth. The nather holds that Alexander was the inventor of that oblique form of attack which has been so successfully re-emplayed by moleral captains, and notably by Frederick the Great at Leuther. The observations of Colonel Dooge upon this and many other points of military science are pregnant and weighty. It may surselence are pregnant and weighty and ruler, and the children gambol-ling about trom group of a their choider gambol-ling about trom group to group with their special to group wit

the snadowiess twilight lay upon the earth. The nightingales on the borders of the wood sang carelessly from the scattered hazel-trees above the greensward, where the grass was cropped down close by the nibbling of the rabbits; but in spite of their song and the divers voices of the menfolk about the houses, it was an evening on which sounds from aloof can be well heard, since noises carry far at such tides. Suddenly they who were on the edges of these throngs and were the less noisy held themselves as if to listen, and a group that had gathered about a minstrel to hear his story fell hearkening also round about the silenced and hearkening tale-tellers. Some of the dancers and singers noted them, and in their turn staved the dance and kent in silence to hearken, and so from group to group spread the change, till all were straining their ears to hearken the tidings. Already, the men of the night-shift had heard it, and the shepherds of them had turned about, and were trotting smartly back through the lanes of the tall wheat, but the horseherds were now scarce seen on the darkening meadow, as they galloped on fast toward their herds to drive home the stallions. For what they had heard was the tidings of war."

A still finer example of Mr. Morris's prose-

A still finer example of Mr. Morris's prosepoetry will be found in the description of the A TALE OF THE HOUSE OF THE WOLFINGS AND ALL THE KINDIED OF THE MARK. Written in Prose and in Verse by William Morris. 8vo. pp. 387. Boston: Roberts Brothers. their woes and wars, and of the building of the House

"And it fell into their hearts that now at last The besigness of companions of relative significant controls of the control of the principle forms of iteracy as postage and the evidence is as conflicting a publisher to studied his books to examination, and that it shill be called. The first significant controls the principle forms of iteracy as the principle form of the principle forms of iteracy as the state of the principle forms of iteracy as the principle form all written one of the principle forms of iteracy as the principle form all written one principle forms of iteracy as the principle form all written observed in the relative part of the principle forms of iteracy as the principle form all written observed in the relative part of the principle forms of iteracy as the principle form all written observed in the eleventh, twelfth and thrifteen controls the principle form all written observed in the principle form all written observed in the principle form all written observed in the principle form and the principle forms of the principle

# LITERARY NOTES.

Another book of Mr. Jerome, the young English

frequers of old; when the war-signal carried in man who is engaged in a praiseworthy strangle to bet made from House to House upon the scenes become a humanist, is announced by Henry Holt & o. This is entitled "stage Land; Curious Habits and istoms of its finiabitants," and has received many impliments from English critics.

Mr. Marion Crawford is receiving a complimen really worth having from French editors. The two principal papers in Pairs—the "Bebats" and the "Temps"—are publishing translations of his most brill and the latter "Saracinesca." C. J. Woodbury, the author of the recollections of

merchant in San Francisco. Professor Arthur sherburne Hardy has become a

critic as well as a novelist. He has just undertaken for "The Andove" fleview " a new department devoted to the literary outlook. The author of "Passe Rose ought to do good work in this direction.

The adventures of the neverto-be-forgotten Tartarin are to be completed in the volume which M. Dandet has just finished, and which Mr. Henry James s translating. In this story Tartarin become ern as a colonist. Both the French and the Eng ish editions will be illustrated, and they will be prought out at the same time. "I love Tartarin," and M. Daudet not long ago. "Perhaps I would have t him rest in his lovely town for some time to come had not a wholly personal consideration encouraged me to start him again on his adventures. The past year has been a hard one for me; I have suffered a creat deal; and as I was searching for a distraction from my sufferings for one of those tasks that absorb from my sufferings for one of those tasks that absorb-one, and make one forget physical path—I thought of Tartarin. Fascal forgot his neuralized in weeking at mathematics. I have forgotten my rheumatism in the company of Tartarin. The Tartascentan here is per-haps intelleted to me for his fame: I am indebted to min for repose, and for helping me to forget my sufferings, ought I not to feel beholden to him? - The Begum," one of the chief characters in Mr.

Benner's "Atlantic" serial, is said to have actually fived and died in New York. The novel is coming out in book form next month. Miss Virginia F. Johnson, the author of "The House

of the Musician" and other successful novels, has written a new story entitled "The Treasure Tower, The scene is laid in Malta. The heroine of Rider Haggard's new novel "Leatrice," is an accomplished girl, holding atheistica views, the daughter of a poor Welsh elergyman.

one or two Americans will appear in William Black's forthcoming novel, called "Stand Fast, Cava The novel which Mr. Haggard and Mr. Andrew Lang have been working at together is to be published serially under the title of "The World's Desire." Royston."

The late William Parsons Atkinson, says a writer in "The Boston Post," was a man of such genuin orth and excited such a beneficent influence as an educator that his loss is a serious one to the conmunity, which has for so many years had the benefit of his scholarly attainments and his broad views of literature and life. In his position as professor of English and history at the institute of Technology, which he filled for a quarter of a century, he did much to impress sound principles of culture upon the students, leading them to judge for themselves of the ments of the masters of composition by his ad-mirable expositions of what constitutes excellence in

## THE PUBLISHERS.

THE PUBLIC, AND THE AUTHOR.

London, March 19. The dispute about discount in the bookselling and book-publishing trade of Great Britain is not one by which the public can expect to profit. It all springs from what is called underselling, and it is underselling, not the suppression of it, which is to the advantage of the public. But, say the retail men, it is carried to such a point that the selling of books by retail is no longer a pass g business. The political economist would reply, "Then go into some other busiless that harm would be done. You would hearthy disdoes pay"; or, rather, "The capital now employed unremuneratively in retail bookselling will migrate into some other business that is remunerative." Unless, perchance, it should meantime disappear, and with it the unhappy owner. That Mr. Besant calls monstrous and indecent, is a detail- of which political economy takes no You would, if the society called account, but which is of some account to those upon you for advice, strike out that who are not above sentiment, and not superior

Whether retail bookselling does in fact pay, or does not, is a matter that has of late been pub- You would not justify for a moment the refusal of liely discussed, and the evidence is as conflicting a publisher to submit his books to examination, to have been quite forgotten, so that we find critics disputing as to whether it is prose or critics disputing as to whether it is prose or should have to bear the Hall-Sun through the should have to bear the Hall-Sun through the answered either way. Roughly speaking, it pays publication, of the number of copies printed and answered either way.

poissed nucleonth century diction. Yet it must not be thought that any anachronism or anomaly is suggested by this grafting of the new culture of the whole of this remarkable work. It is, inupon the old stem. On the contrary, the story deed, a noble composition, and one to be rend of 26 pence on the 91 pence of capital, or nearly to the person to whom this letter is addressed. of "The House of the Wolfings," which is one again and again, and to be appreciated and per cent. A tradesman who cannot live on a grain and again, and to be appreciated and profit of 30 per cent ought perhaps to try some of fierce wars and deadly encounters in the main. and which chronicles the deeds of Gothic bar-barians backed in death are not with the Possible property in our with fitting passed in death are not a fire or a few passed in the passe and which chronicles the deals of Gothic bar-barians locked in death-grapple with the Eemin legions, lacks no element of virility; it brings before the realer metures of that fierce life so before the reader pictures of that farce life so him with gold ornaments and lettering, and provided so fally colored, so natural, that the chances with a case of scarlet stiffened his other swares, the profit on which is large enough to recomp him for his small loss on the names: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Oliver Optic, E. books. No doubt the linendraper is capable of this wicked act. It is an old trick, and there is Warner and Mrs. H. B. Stowe, Hartford, Conn.; L. P. no act of Parliament against it, nor any act or Morton, General W. T. Sherman, the Rev. Howard other thing to prevent the bookseller from re-The pleasing statement is made that if the copies torting upon his rival and selling pocket-hand-The pleasing statement is made that if the copies in the pleasing statement is made that if the copies include, the exigencies of culture, the something fierce and combative that lurks in the most educate nature, are all satisfied with the composition.

> profit is to prevail. Mr. Macmillan is a partner in a very eminent publishing house, and anything he says on the publishing or selling of books deserves attention. He has written a long letter about bookselling to a trade organ, and expresses some sympathy with the booksellers in their present difficulties. Before we proceed with that, might I suggest to Mr. Macmillan that some of his sympathies might be bestowed on another person concerned in the book business, the au-thor? It the figures I have given above are correct, the seller of books, even in his present wretelied estate, makes a profit of 30 per centant novels, the former bringing out "Greifenstein" Will Mr. Macmillan be so kind as to tell us in what proportion the profits on a successful book are distributed between author and publisher Emerson recently printed in "The Contury," is an | Does the author make a "living profit" on what is commonly the only capital he possesses, his brains? Let us take a recent case. We will suppose that an eminent firm publishes a book of reminiscences in two handsome volumes at \$7.50, and that, notwithstanding the high price, the public buys four elitions of it. That, surely, is soccessful book, and one that ought to pay everybody concerned a living profit, and perhaps something more. Does Mr. Macmillan think he could find out what share of the proceeds the author received and how much the publisher kept for himself, and, if he could, will he let us know? A private transaction? Oh, no, Mr. Macmillan, that is one of several mistakes into which you publishers occasionally fall. It is a matter of very considerable public interest. It concerns encouraged, and should be profitable to the producer of it. The patron on whom the author once in some measure depended has disappeared. The publisher has taken his place. He is, or

the community deeply that literature should be ought to be, the Maccenus of the nineteenth century. But if Johnson were fiving now, do you hink he would soften the terrible lines which he wrote under the sting of Lord Chesterfield's neglect? There mark what ills the scholar's life assail, -foil, envy, want, the patron and the jail.

To substitute publisher for patron would spoil the metre. Would it much affect the sense? The publisher is a man of business, the author is at, or seldom is. Do you think publishers have dways borne that in mind? They have drawn their own contracts. Have the interests of the ather or of the publisher been most carefully onsidered in those printed forms, filled up acording to circumstances which are pre-cated to the author, all unacquainted as he is with affairs, for him to sign?

Do not imagine, my dear Maemillan, that I address these questions to you because I mean to imply that you personally do not conduct your business on the most honorable principles. I am persuaded that you do. But I apprehend you to the property of the pro persuaded that you do. But I apprehend you would admit, or perhaps even assert, that among your many rivals in the business of publishing books are to be found some whose treatment of authors is less considerate than your own. I will not say, and perhaps you would not, that any of them are dishonest. I prefer to use a word which was a favorite with Matthew Arnoid, and to suggest that in their dealings with the authors on whose productions their own prosperity depends, some of them are sometimes indelicate. You would not, I think, refuse to go as far as that. You would say, no doubt, there are publishers and publishers, and that not every limp is so scrupulous in its transactions or so high-minded as your own.

If they were, how would you explain, for example, the existence of the Incorporated Society "I demonstrate the business of publishing for you. Now, every time A passes through the gate on sak him what's the matter; tell him he looks thin and wat, and ask hiff who his decorpt is. "The next day A came along, and the looks thin and war, and ask hiff who his doctor is." "The next day A came along, and the looks thin and was considered at himself frequently in the glass during the day. The next day I had ocasion to go to town again, and stopped and chatted with the toll-gate keeper, told him he felt well are well and slept well, but he thought be free and with the toll-gate keeper, told him he felt well are well and slept well, but he thought he free to share in his physical condition, and perhaps his clothes didn't it him as well as they used to, etc. "Now," said in to the toll-gate keeper, 'I wish you could make neighbor B feel as though he wasn't well. Here's a \$2 him who had docked at himself frequently in the glass during the day. The next day A had ocasion to go to town again, and stopped and chatted with the toll-gate keeper, told him he felt well and slept well, but he thought he thought he thought he to leave the well and slept well, but he thought he wasn't well. Here's a \$2 him who had docked at him

If they were, how would you explain, for example, the existence of the Incorporated Society of Authors, and what construction would you put upon some of its recent proceedings? Some of

are members of that society. They have an executive committee, and that committee go so THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE BOOKSELLER, far as to declare that there are firms of s. publishers which exist solely by robbery and cheating. Surely you, and all other publishers of high character and repute, must desire to dissociate yourselves as widely as possible from the secondrels who profess to carry on the same business that you do. You would agree with the committee, would you not, in their urgent recommendation that authors should send their agreements with publishers for examination by the society before signing? If there were clauses in those agreements injurious to the author, he would be warned not to sign. If there were none, no approve, I am sure, every attempt to induce an unwary writer to bind himself not to publish in future with any other house than that which was then to issue a particular book-an attempt which agreed statement of the cost of production which the less delicate publisher sometimes inserts; and is sometimes careless enough to exaggerate.

the most respected and popular authors of the day

Dear Sir, Madame: I inclose you a portion of my antograph-book, and would be very much obliged if you would sign your name on one page, and then, ad-dressing an envelope to the next person after you on site page, inclose the letter and the book. if you will, and greatly oblige. Your obedient servant,

names: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Oliver Optic, E. E. Hale and E. Eggleston, Boston; S. L. Clemens, C. D. Crosby, T. De Witt Talmage, George William Curtis and Theodore Cuyler, New-York City; General and Mrs. Hayes, Fremont, Ohio, and Miss Frances Willard, Evanston, Ill. Upon the third page began the autographs:

Yours, truly (Pass the damned piece of impudence to Warner.)

Yours sincerely, CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER, (Passed on in an unruffled spirit to Mrs. Stow

Yours very truly,
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE. (Passed by Mrs. Stowe to Levi P. Morton, pass the little boy's book along.)

> Very truly yours, LEVI P. MORTON. W. T. SHERMAN,

(Passed by General Sherman to the Rev. Mr. Tal-mase, who will please pass to Mr. Howard Crosby, whose address is unknown.) with wishes for your happiness,
T. DE WITT TALMAGE.
The Rev. Dr.

(Passed by T. De Witt Talmane to the Rev Yours tectofally.
Ti(EO, L. CUYLER.
(Dear Mr. Curtis: I hope you will add a name that

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS
(Ry Mr. Curtis to Dr. Crosby: I follow my leader.) HOWARD CROSBY. (Dear President Hayes: Keep up the boy's ball.)

With best wishes.
RUTHERFORD B. HAYES,
LUCY W. HAYES.
(Passed by Mr. and Mrs. Hayes to Miss Frances
Willard, with kindest regards. The good thing about
its that such busy persons as have here given their
time to make a boy happy, seem to have made themsives happy in doing it. You will, I am sure, go
and do likewise.—E. B. H.)

FRANCES E. WILLARD.

Miss Willard returned the book to the owner, so made no further comment; but speaking of it to a friend, declared that after reading the plan, "like the Queen of Sheba, there was no more spirit within me.

### THE CADET'S EXPLANATION. West Point varns in The Chicago Inter-Ocean

West Point yarns in The Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Even in the privacy of his own room the cadet is required to conduct himself, with all the dignity necessary for a court reception, and should the inspecting officer detect any slight flaw in his dress, attitude, or deportment an official report of the matter is made at once.

When a report is made an explanation is required of the cadet. In order to show to what extent this is sometimes carried I give vechatim the following: West Point, N. Y., Feb. 21, 1890.—Report. Feet on the table at inspection, 3.p. m. Explanation; I would respectfully state that the report is correct. It was necessary that I should have my feet on the table, as my room-mate was present and had his feet on the floor. I live with Cadet Grimes. Respectfully submitted,

Cadet Private Co. A, 1st Class,

# TAKING DOUBLE TOLL.